Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MSNWIMU, US

SUBJECT: ADDITONAL CLAYMORE MINES

REF STATE 107451

1. WE ASKED OFFICIAL OF OMANGOV MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR ELABORATION OF ITS NEED FOR 1,300 ADDITIONAL CLAYMORE MINES, STATING THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES REQUIRED SOME SPECIFIC JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS ORDER AS PER REFTEL. REPLY WE GOT WAS THAT THIS IS A FIRM REQUIREMENT OFTHE SULTAN OF OMAN'S LAND FORCES (SOLF), I.E. THE OMANI ARMY, BASED ON ESTIMATES OF

A) TRAINING EXPENDITURES, (B) "CONTACT RATE" IN CASE HOSTILITIES BROKE OUT, AND (C) RESERVE REQUIREMENTS. OFFICIAL SEEMED RELUCTANT GO INTO FURTHER DETAIL, AND INDEED WONDERED WHY HE SHOULD HAVE TO DO SO FOR THIS ORDER WHICH HE DEEMED RATHER ROUTINE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT MINISTRY IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED AS PRESENT TIME IN PRICE AND DELIVERY QUOTATIONS, AND IT IS NOT READY TO SUBMIT FORMAL FMS ORDER. (NOTE: APPARENTLY MINISTRY HAS QUOTATIONS FROM A C LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MERCIA)

SUPPLIER, AND IT WISHES TO COMPARE. MINISTRY IS AWARE THAT COMMERCIAL SUPPLIER WOULD NEED EXPORT LICENSE, AND THAT JUSTIFICATION FOR ORDER WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO BE AN ISSUE EVENTUALLY.)

2. FYI: IN CONVERSATION WITH MINISTRY OFFICIAL, HE SLIGHTLY

AMENDED REQUEST FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS ON THIS ORDER. MINISTRY NOW WANTS PRICE QUOTED FOB AT U.S. EXIT PORT, INSTEAD OF CIF MUSCAT. THIS IS BECAUSE MINISTRY REALIZES IT HAS A DESIGNATED U.S. FREIGHT FORWARDER WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY RECEIVE THE ITEMS AND HANDLE SHIPMENT.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT ORDER RESULTS FROM GENUINELY FELT REQUIREMENT WITHIN SOLF, AS STAFFED OUT IN SOLF HEADQUARTERS. TOGETHER WITH MINES TO BE DELIVERED UNDER PENDING CASE UAG, THIS ORDER WOULD PUT FMS-ACQUIRED TOTAL OF CLYAMORE MINES IN HANDS OF SOLF AT 1,700. THIS STRIKES US AS GENEROUS BUT NOT EXCESSIVE AMOUNT. WE WILL PURSUE THE MATTER WITH THE MINISTRY, IN EFFORT GET SOME DETAILS OF NEED FOR CLAYMORE MINES.

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